

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Patricia A. Plunkert, Aluminum Commodity Specialist
U.S. Geological Survey
989 National Center
Reston, VA 20192
Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757
E-mail: pplunker@usgs.gov

Benjamin S. Goff (Data)
Telephone: (703) 648-7962
Fax: (703) 648-7975
E-mail: bgoff@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

ALUMINUM IN MAY 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in May was 213,941 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,901 t, 2% lower than that of the previous month and about 1% below the rate for May 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased significantly to 85.125 cents per pound in May 2005 from 92.500 cents per pound in April, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) continued the decline that began in April. The buying price range at the beginning of the month was 67–69 cents per pound and on May 6, the price range decreased to 65–66.5 cents per pound. On May 10, the price range increased slightly to 65.5–67 cents per pound before returning to its downward trend. On May 17, the price range decreased to 62–64 cents per pound, and on May 24, it

decreased further to 61–63 cents per pound. The price range remained at this level through the end of the month.

Update

In June, the monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 83.35 cents per pound, continuing the downward trend that began in April. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during the month of June. On June 7, the price range increased briefly to 62–64 cents per pound before returning to 61–63 cents per pound on June 10. On June 21, the price range increased again to 62–64 cents per pound, but on June 28, the price decreased to 60–62 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004 ^p	2,516	1,830	1,200	3,020	3,250	938	4,180	9,720	1,470
2004:									
May	217	156	102	258	282	76	357	832	1,430
June	204	142	102	244	309	80	389	838	1,440
July	209	151	99	250	297	80	377	836	1,490
August	210	158	107	265	225	87	312	787	1,470
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159	106	265	286	84	370	847	1,390
November	207	150	103	253	272	84	356	816	1,420
December	211	139	94	233	294	82	377	821	1,470
January-May	1,061	774	481	1,260	1,280	356	1,640	3,950	1,430
2005:									
January	209	157	102	259	334	90	425	893	1,510 ^r
February	191	152	103	255	289	97	386	833	1,450 ^r
March	214	167	102	268	262	105	367	849	1,480 ^r
April	211	157	102	259	372	104	476	945	1,490
May	214	155	103	258	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-May	1,039	788	512	1,300	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2004 ^p	1,680	1,240	754	668	1,080	1,010	110	98	5	5	3,630	3,020
2004:												
May	140	103	68	60	93	87	8	7	1	1	310	258
June	135	100	62	55	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	294	244
July	136	99	66	58	91	85	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
August	147	109	67	60	95	89	8	7	(2)	(2)	318	265
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	146	108	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	306	253
December	133	98	61	54	78	73	8	7	(2)	(2)	281	233
January-May	694	513	304	270	455	425	50	45	2	2	1,500	1,260
2005:												
January	151	110	63	55	92	86	9	8	(2)	(2)	314	259
February	149	109	69	61	83	78	8	7	1	1	310	255
March	152	110	69	60	96	90	8	7	1	1	325	268
April	147	108	68	60	89	83	8	7	1	1	313	259
May	153	111	68	60	84	79	8	7	1	1	314	258
January-May	751	549	337	296	444	416	41	36	4	4	1,580	1,300

^pPreliminary.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MAY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	127,000	153,000	92,800	111,000
Integrated aluminum companies	68,300	68,300	60,100	60,100
Independent mill fabricators	70,000	84,000	65,600	78,700
Foundries	6,520	7,830	5,720	6,870
Other consumers	422	507	422	507
Total	273,000	314,000	225,000	258,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MAY 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	27,200	52,300	51,700	27,800	283,000	280,000
Can stock clippings	1,780	23,700	23,700	1,810	124,000	125,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,780	25,200	25,700	8,250	117,000	117,000
Casting	882	8,550	8,550	888	40,600	41,000
Borings and turnings	7,090	18,700	18,100	7,700	92,500	89,100
Dross and skimmings	5,400	38,000	37,800	5,560	184,000	184,000
Total new scrap	51,100	166,000	166,000	52,000	842,000	836,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	6,830	9,810	9,780	6,860	54,700	53,900
Used Extrusion	42	257	257	42	1,280	1,280
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,200	68,700	67,600	12,300	340,000	333,000
Other wrought products	5,630	17,400	17,400	5,630	85,500	85,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,910	11,700	11,500	3,120	56,600	55,900
Total old scrap	26,600	108,000	106,000	28,000	538,000	530,000
Sweated pig	72	721	721	72	3,690	3,700
Total all classes	77,800	275,000	273,000	80,100	1,380,000	1,370,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	May				January-May ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,810	1,230	1,010	5,020	8,750	6,990
380 and variations	4,950	20,800	20,300	5,440	103,000	104,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,410	4,050	3,980	2,480	20,000	20,100
No. 319 and variations	4,670	9,700	9,520	4,850	47,100	47,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,240	1,400	1,470	1,170	10,500	10,600
Al-Zn alloys	229	124	130	223	712	712
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	3	3	39	16	16
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	50	381	381	50	1,900	1,900
Other ⁴	6,500	6,250	4,590	8,160	30,600	27,700
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,200	21,700	21,700	10,200	108,000	108,000
Total all alloys	35,100	65,600	63,100	37,600	331,000	328,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,580	XX	XX	48,300	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,920	XX	XX	13,400	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	723	XX	XX	3,320	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	53,400	XX	XX	266,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Argentina	462	21,200	12	1,930	--	--	474	23,200
Australia	7,500	24,300	13	56	--	77	7,510	24,500
Bahrain	213	711	1,320	5,090	--	--	1,530	5,800
Belgium	--	(2)	1,220	4,250	--	--	1,220	4,250
Brazil	16,900	72,800	2,970	12,600	--	126	19,900	85,500
Canada	144,000	559,000	43,800	171,000	23,300	101,000	211,000	830,000
China	5,470	15,500	11,400	33,200	--	125	16,800	48,800
France	122	385	604	2,440	--	20	726	2,850
Germany	247	1,140	9,900	34,700	--	96	10,100	36,000
Hungary	--	--	527	601	--	--	527	601
Italy	35	181	262	819	--	--	297	1,000
Japan	39	337	1,720	6,350	27	229	1,790	6,920
Korea, Republic of	--	--	186	1,250	--	--	186	1,250
Mexico	--	--	1,790	7,080	9,110	36,300	10,900	43,400
Netherlands	39	143	130	745	--	--	169	887
Norway	--	--	1	54	--	2	1	56
Russia	130,000	383,000	3,770	22,400	1,040	2,690	134,000	408,000
South Africa	10,700	29,400	5,840	16,100	--	--	16,600	45,500
Spain	--	7	447	1,170	47	47	494	1,220
Sweden	--	--	134	896	--	--	134	896
Switzerland	--	(2)	348	1,090	--	--	348	1,090
Tajikistan	29,000	44,100	--	--	--	--	29,000	44,100
United Arab Emirates	7,090	22,000	--	132	--	85	7,090	22,200
United Kingdom	2,850	15,300	810	2,620	117	671	3,780	18,600
Venezuela	12,700	49,600	869	4,990	1,500	5,770	15,000	60,300
Other	5,760	18,600	15,500	64,300	4,970	18,200	26,300	101,000
Total	372,000	1,260,000	104,000	396,000	40,100	165,000	516,000	1,820,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN APRIL 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April	April	January- April
Australia	11	87	196	639	1	12	208	738
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	149	475	663	2,210	--	--	812	2,690
Brazil	23	129	911	2,090	174	1,120	1,110	3,340
Canada	9,960	43,600	41,200	171,000	13,700	50,200	64,800	264,000
China	19	94	2,870	7,610	46,700	153,000	49,600	161,000
Czech Republic	--	--	10	170	--	--	10	170
Dominican Republic	3	3	7	108	--	--	10	111
France	58	176	736	2,640	--	45	794	2,870
Germany	14	178	849	2,530	13	156	875	2,870
Hong Kong	175	189	497	2,210	717	3,120	1,390	5,510
India	1	35	35	119	714	3,090	750	3,240
Israel	75	175	350	904	--	--	425	1,080
Italy	172	172	199	949	--	--	370	1,120
Japan	621	1,630	599	3,040	2,650	9,920	3,870	14,600
Korea, Republic of	155	328	1,160	4,720	12,600	43,000	13,900	48,000
Malaysia	1	5	1,370	4,650	3	47	1,370	4,710
Mexico	14,700	51,700	14,900	61,200	4,970	16,400	34,600	129,000
Netherlands	18	64	51	188	--	37	68	289
Russia	--	28	3	3	--	10	3	41
Saudi Arabia	--	(2)	2,220	10,700	--	--	2,220	10,700
Singapore	205	260	445	1,000	505	544	1,160	1,800
Spain	(2)	9	111	310	--	196	111	516
Sweden	(2)	9	39	176	--	--	39	186
Taiwan	45	113	824	3,070	5,480	16,700	6,340	19,900
Thailand	49	147	515	2,490	406	2,500	970	5,130
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	60	151	1,360	4,940	22	125	1,440	5,220
Venezuela	3	3	23	233	--	21	26	258
Other	448	1,440	3,290	11,600	6,210	15,000	9,940	28,000
Total	27,000	101,000	75,400	301,000	94,800	315,000	197,000	717,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.